

NOAA is announcing a federal funding opportunity to support applied management projects and activities under the Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program. Bycatch reduction is a top priority for NOAA Fisheries, as outlined in our National Bycatch Reduction Strategy, because bycatch contributes to overfishing, threatens endangered and threatened species and protected marine mammals, and can close fisheries, significantly impacting U.S. economic growth. This Program seeks to support the development and testing of fishing gears that reduce bycatch. NOAA Fisheries managers and Regional Fishery Management Councils need new bycatch reduction technology to meet the MSA requirements to minimize bycatch and habitat impacts.

The 2017 FFO outlines four high priority areas including developing innovative and effective technologies, improving understanding of post release mortality, developing techniques to reduce interactions between corals and sponges, and international bycatch issues. In the past we have awarded up to \$2.4 million for one year projects.

For more information, visit the [BREP homepage](#).